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Of Attorneys for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON
PORTLAND DIVISION

JAMES ANDERSON, ROBERT CRANE, RON
LEE, NATHAN STOKES, DAVID
ALEXANDER, JOHN ANDERSON, JAMES M.
WRIGHT, and KYLE IZATT, Trustees for the
AGC-INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 701
PENSION, HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND
TRAINING TRUST FUNDS,

Case No. 3:19-cv-00298

COMPLAINT

Suit to Enforce Collective Bargaining
Agreement and Contributions Obligation
under 29 U.S.C. §§185, 1132 and 1145
and for Injunctive Relief

v.

TBH & ASSOCIATES, LLC, a Washington
limited liability company,

Defendant.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1.

This action arises under Section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act
and Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act. (29 U.S.C §1132 and 185). This Court has exclusive

COMPLAINT

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jurisdiction of this action pursuant to section 301(a) of the Labor Management Relations Act (“LMRA”), 29 U.S.C. § 185(a), for breach of a Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) between an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce and a labor organization representing employees in an industry affecting commerce. This Court also has exclusive jurisdiction under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”), Section 502, 29 U.S.C §1132, and Section 515 (29 U.S.C. §1145) because this action is brought by the trustees of an employee benefit plan to enforce the employer’s obligation to agree to an audit according to the applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement.

2.

Venue is proper in this District insofar as Defendant has expressly consented.

PARTIES

3.

Plaintiffs are Trustees of the AGC-International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 Health and Welfare, Pension and Training Trust Funds (“Trust Funds”). Said Trust Funds were and are Trusts created pursuant to written collective bargaining agreements which are organized and existing pursuant to section 302 of the LMRA (29 USC §186). Said Trust Funds are also multi-employer “employee benefit plans” for purposes of 29 U.S.C. §1132(d)(1) and §1002, in that they are established and maintained for the purpose of providing medical, disability, pension, training and other related needs of employees within the purposes of the Trust Fund.

4.

At all times relevant hereto, Defendant was a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Washington.

5.

Defendant is, and has been, engaged in the construction industry and, as such, has been engaged in an industry affecting commerce, within the meaning of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 152, and within the meaning of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1002.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6.

Defendant entered into a Master Labor Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 701 (“Local 701”) in or around July 1999. A copy of the short form agreement is attached as EXHIBIT A. Defendant also entered into express contractual agreements with the Trust Funds when it submitted its contribution reports stating that it agreed “to be bound by the Trust Agreements creating and controlling the Fringe benefits listed. . .”

7.

Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements, Defendant agreed to make monetary contributions on behalf of its employees performing work within the jurisdiction of Local 701 to the Trust Funds. Defendant further agreed to be bound by the terms and provisions of the Trust Agreements as amended that governed each of the respective Trust Funds.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

8.

The Trust Agreements, as amended, that govern the respective Trust Funds required Defendant to file timely monthly reports to the Trust Funds on its employees covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreements setting forth the amount of hours worked by Defendant’s

employees. In addition, Defendant is required to make monthly payments to the Trust Funds based on the number of hours its employees worked in the preceding month at the rate and manner specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

9.

Defendant breached the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Trust Agreements by failing to submit timely and complete contributions along with the monthly reports for the months November and December 2018 and January 2019. As a result, Defendant owes \$7,867.00 in admitted liability to the Trust Funds (e.g., not including liquidated damages, interest, or other assessments). To date, Defendant owes \$970.62 in liquidated damages and ongoing interest at a rate of 12%.

10.

Plaintiffs complied with all conditions precedent to bringing this suit. Plaintiffs retained the undersigned attorneys to collect the monies that may be found due and owing from Defendant.

11.

Plaintiffs are entitled to enforcement of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Trust Agreements. Further, Plaintiffs are entitled to attorneys' fees and costs as well as liquidated damages and interest on the unpaid contributions pursuant to the Trust Agreements and to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for Judgment against Defendant as follows:

1. That Defendant be ordered to submit contributions in the amount of \$7,867.00, or in an amount to be determined by the factfinder, for the months that work was

- performed for the months December 2018 and January 2019;
2. That Defendant be ordered to pay interest on the amount that is due pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Trust Agreements, and 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g) at a rate of 12%;
 3. That Defendant be ordered to pay liquidated damages and interest on the amount that is due pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Trust Agreements; and 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g), currently totaling \$970.62;
 4. That Defendant be ordered to pay reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the Plaintiffs; and
 5. For such further relief as the Court deems equitable.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2019.

s/ Talia Y. Guerriero
TALIA Y. GUERRERO, OSB No. 115271
Of Attorneys for Plaintiff